

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174679

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, IN

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS WITH MEA'S AMERICAS

DIVISION CHIEF TEJA

1. J.S. TEJA, CHIEF OF THE AMERICAS DIVISION OF INDIA'S
MEA, MADE CALLS ON DEPARTMENT, ACDA, AND AEC OFFICIALS
ON AUGUST 3. TEJA HAD ARRIVED HERE WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY
KEWAL SINGH AND ACCOMPANIED SINGH ON HIS CALL ON THE
SECRETARY ON AUGUST 2. IN HIS CONVERSATIONS, TEJA
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TOUCHED ON SEVERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST INCLUDING INDO-

PAKISTANI RELATIONS, THE PROPOSED INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION, INDIAN VIEWS ON NUCLEAR MATTERS, AND THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE QUESTION. HIGHLIGHTS OF TEJA'S DISCUSSIONS FOLLOW.

2. THE MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN CENTERED ON INDO-PAKISTANI RELATIONS AND NUCLEAR MATTERS. TEJA STRESSED INDIAN DESIRE FOR REASONABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN. HE SAID THAT RECENT STATEMENTS BY BHUTTO HAD NOT BEEN HELPFUL (COMMENT: TEJA MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO BHUTTO STATEMENTS MADE BEFORE HIS MORE CONCILIATORY REMARKS OF PAST FEW DAYS). ATHERTON REAFFIRMED STRONG U.S. SUPPORT FOR SIMLA PROCESS, EXPRESSED HOPE IT COULD BE RESUMED, APPLAUDED INDIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THAT PROCESS,

BUT SUGGESTED INDIANS MAY NOT HAVE FULLY APPRECIATED EXTENT OF PAK CONCERN FOLLOWING INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST. WE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT WHILE RESUMPTION OF SIMLA WOULD REQUIRE EFFORT ON BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN, SPECIAL OBLIGATION RESTED ON INDIA BECAUSE OF NUCLEAR TEST.

3. ACCORDING TO TEJA, INDIA DOES NOT NEED NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO PROTECT ITSELF AGAINST ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS INCLUDING PAKISTAN. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE PAKS SHOULD TEST INDIAN INTENTIONS BY CONSIDERING NO-WAR PACT.

4. TEJA INQUIRED ABOUT SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT WE WERE UNDERTAKING A STUDY OF NONPROLIFERATION WITH A VIEW TO CONDUCTING TALKS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AIMED AT HALTING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE EXPLAINED THAT OUR STUDY IS STILL UNDERWAY. WHEN WE TOLD TEJA THAT WE HAD HAD SOME PRELIMINARY EXCHANGES WITH THE UK AND CANADA, HE COMMENTED THAT THE GOI WOULD BE READY FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

5. IN A JOINT CONVERSATION WITH SCI DIRECTOR POLLACK AND AEC DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS (ALSO ATTENDED BY THE INDIAN EMBASSY'S SCIATT), TEJA CONCENTRATED ON THE PROPOSED JOINT COMMISSION AND THE BENEFITS THAT

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MIGHT ENSUE FROM INDO-US SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COLLABORATION. TEJA INDICATED THAT THE INDIANS HOPE THE JOINT COMMISSION WILL BECOME AN IMPORTANT VEHICLE FOR JOINT VENTURES, COLLABORATION, AND THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. ACCORDING TO THE INDIAN SCIATT, THE GOI IS NOW WORKING UP A LIST OF TOPICS FOR COLLABORATION.

6. WE CAUTIONED THE INDIANS NOT TO EXAGGERATE EXPECTA-

TIONS FROM JOINT COMMISSION. ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION COULD FACILITATE CONTACTS AND PROVIDE HELP AS A CATALYST, IT WAS NOT MEANT AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR DIRECT INDIAN DEALINGS WITH PRIVATE AMERICAN FIRMS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ACTUALLY POSSESSING DESIRED TECHNOLOGY.

7. TEJA DOWNPLAYED RECENT MEETINGS WITH THE CANADIANS IN OTTAWA, TERMING THEM REGULAR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN DIFFERENCES WITH THE CANADIANS OVER THE ISSUE OF PNES.

8. REGARDING PEACEFUL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, TEJA CLAIMED TO POLLACK AND FRIEDMAN THAT INDIA HOPED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE EXPORT OF PNE TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE GOI'S PEACEFUL USES DOCTRINE, TEJA

REPLIED THAT INDIA COULD NOT OBJECT IF OTHER COUNTRIES DEVELOPED PNES BUT ADDED THAT THE QUESTION OF EXPORTS WAS ONE FOR THE FUTURE. HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT INDIA WAS NOT EXPORTING PNE TECHNOLOGY.

9. WE TOLD TEJA THAT THE U.S. WAS DISAPPOINTED AND CONCERNED ABOUT THE INDIAN REPLY TO AEC CHAIRMAN RAY'S JUNE 19 LETTER REQUESTING REASSURANCES ON FUEL SUPPLIED TO THE TARAPUR NUCLEAR POWER STATION. TEJA ASSERTED THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR QUESTIONS HAD BEEN ANSWERED AND ADDED: "THERE IS NOTHING ABOUT THE TARAPUR PLANT THAT SHOULD CAUSE YOU ANY CONCERN."

10. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE AND IO UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BAKER, TEJA ASKED ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION ON VARIOUS DISARMAMENT MATTERS, CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S. PLANS FOR THE 29TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND FOR AN UP-DATE ON CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS.

11. DURING CONVERSATION WITH BAKER, WE ASKED ABOUT INDIAN THINKING ON THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE QUESTION. TEJA REPLIED THAT INDIA CONTINUED TO CONSIDER THAT NAVAL RIVALRY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN SERVED NO USEFUL PURPOSE AND THAT BUILDING "BASES" IN THE AREA AS FOREIGN PRESENCE BEING WITHDRAWN WAS ESPECIALLY INAPPROPRIATE. HE NOTED THAT INDIA COULD NOT SUPPORT ANY AGREEMENT ON LIMITATION OF OUTSIDE FORCES IN THE AREA MADE WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE LITTORAL COUNTRIES INVOLVED. TEJA SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED CONTINUED INDIAN SUPPORT FOR THE IOPZ ITEM IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. KISSINGER

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